Hike in the prices of wheat

1577. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for hike in prices of wheat supplied to PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the prices are likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The Central Issue Price (Ex-FCI godowns) of wheat is revised by the Government from time to time to partially absorb the hike in Minimum Support Price and handling costs of Food Corporation of India. The prevailing Central Issue-price of wheat is Rs. 402/- per quintal.

Setting up of Sugar factories in Cooperative Sector

1578. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what are the State-wise proposals pending with Government for setting up of sugar factories in the Co-operative sector;

(b) what is the number of such proposals sent by the Government of Gujarat and by when these proposals will be accorded approval;

(c) whether Government provide loans for setting up of sugar mills under co-operative sector; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) State-wise number of applications under consideration for the setting up of new sugar mills in the Cooperative Sector as on 30-6-1994 was as under:—

1. Maharashtra	7
2. Karnataka	1
Total:	8

(b) There is no proposal pending for setting up of new sugar mills in Gujarat.

(c) and (d). Government of India does not provide any loans for the setting up of new sugar factories in the Cooperative sector. However, such loans are provided by the Financial Institutions directly to the undertakings. National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provides loan assistance to State Governments for contribution onwards the share capital of co-operative sugar factories.

गोदामों का निजीकरण

1579. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे : क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में गोदामों की भंडारण क्षमता के निजीकरण की कोई योजना बनाई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रयोजनार्थ तैयार की गई कार्य योजना, विशेष रूप से गुजरात के संदर्भ में, का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या इस कार्य के लिये विदेशी निवेशकों से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुये हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो प्राप्त प्रस्तावों का ब्यौरा, विशेष रूप से गुजरात के गोदामों के संदर्भ में, क्या है ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) : (क) ऐसी कोई योजना तैयार नहीं की गई है ?

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

Modernisation of Gur-Production Technology

1580. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to develop and modernise the existing gur production technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research institutes have been set up to modernise gur production units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Government proposes to undertake a special study on gur industry.

(c) No such research institute has been set up by the Ministry of Food, so far.

(d) Question does not arise.

Small scale Units Manufacturing Gur

1581. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the number of small scale units manufacturing gur in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise break up of gur manufacturing units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Price rise in food items

1582. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in the prices of food items in the recent period;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) A statement showing percentage variation in indices of wholesale prices of selected essential food items during the month of April 1994 to July 1994 is attached. (*See* below).

(c) The Government has been monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities on regular basis. Inter-Ministerial Committees monitor prices of selected essential commodities for appropriate and timely action.

Statement

Month-wise percentage variation in the wholesale price index numbers of selected essential food items during the month of April, 1994 to July, 1994

Commodity	Percentage Variation			
	April 94	May, 94	June, 94	July, 94 (upto 16-7-94)
Rice	Steady	—0.9	+0.9	+2.2
Wheat	—4.1	—3.0	+0.3	+1.7
Gram	—7.7	+1.2	—0.3	—2.8
Arhar	—1.6	—1.6	+0.2	+2.4
Potatoes	—2.1	—1.7	+16.9	+16.8
Onions	—13.1	—2.7	—0.7	+1.9
Milk	+4.2	+4.2	—0.1	—0.3
Tea	—6.8	+14.0	+2.7	+18.1
Atta	—1.8	+0.2	—0.3	—0.4
Sugar	+1.9	+4.8	+0.8	—3.1
Salt	—0.1	—0.3	Steady	Steady
Vanaspati	+2.6	+5.0	—0.1	+0.5
Mustard oil	+2.1	+1.4	+1.3	+1.6
Coconut oil	+0.3	—0.7	—0.6	—1.2
Groundnut oil	+6.6	+3.1	+3.5	+3.6